

MARINE CORPS WARFIGHTING LABORATORY

The **Night Integrated Training Environment (N.I.T.E.)** facility provides a venue in which individual Marine and small unit Night Vision Device (NVD) tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) can be learned and practiced.

Background: This type of facility provides capabilities not currently available to the operating forces; specifically mission playback and debrief capability, an integrated score-able targeting system, and varied terrain and obstacles in a controlled environment. Located in garrison, this facility allows cost effective training to be conducted under a variety of artificially produced ambient light conditions; 24-hour per day, 7 days per week, regardless of the outside weather conditions.

Marine Corps infantry forces currently conduct the vast majority of initial and follow-on NVD training in conjunction with Field Training Exercises (FTX). These NVD training periods require nighttime operations, relatively good weather, and are subject to the availability of training areas typically away from garrison. During October 2000 the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory began experimentation with an indoor N.I.T.E. facility to address the challenges and deficiencies associated with current NVD field-training methods.

Description: The N.I.T.E. facility underscores the scalable building block approach to NVD training. Basic and intermediate training can be accomplished prior to field exercises in a very deliberate and controlled manner. Operational pauses can be initiated instantaneously because the training scenarios and light levels are all controlled from within the facility. Simple problems like equipment malfunctions, an improper technique, or dropped gear are easily corrected. The surveillance equipment in the facility allows leaders to be omnipresent and monitor the execution of TTPs in order to critique and debrief individual and small unit actions.

NIGHT INTEGRATED TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

fact sheet



Deliverables: The overall improvements realized by training in this type of facility are seen in enhanced night combat training efficiency, in low visibility movement techniques, target detection, and target engagement. Currently a Universal Needs Statement (UNS) for similar facilities is being staffed for signature at the Second Marine Division and our Corps' Training and Education Command is assessing the possibility of incorporating similar facilities into Marine Corps night vision device training curriculums.

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